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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 20

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights the present note on the technical meeting of experts on minorities which took place at Geneva from 2 to 4 February 1993.

GE.93-10570 (E)

1. By its resolution 1991/22 entitled "Possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution of problems involving minorities", of 28 August 1991, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities requested the Secretary-General to prepare with the cooperation of the Special Rapporteur, a technical meeting of experts on minorities. By its decision 1992/112, the Commission on Human Rights approved the Sub-Commission's request and, by its decision 1992/254 the Economic and Social Council endorsed the approval by the Commission.

2. The Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, was appointed by the Sub-Commission in 1989 with a mandate to undertake a study on national experiences regarding the peaceful and constructive solutions of problems involving minorities. As requested by the Sub-Commission, the Special Rapporteur has so far submitted a preliminary report in 1990 and two progress reports in 1991 and 1992 respectively. The Special Rapporteur will submit his final report to the Sub-Commission at its forty-fifth session in August 1993.

3. In accordance with Sub-Commission resolution 1991/22, the meeting was convened at Geneva from 2 to 4 February 1993. The meeting was attended by leading experts on minorities from different regions of the world selected by the Special Rapporteur and invited accordingly by the Centre for Human Rights. In addition, the meeting was attended by the representatives of some specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations having competence in the field of minorities, as well as representatives from Governments.

4. Upon invitation by the Special Rapporteur, the meeting was addressed by the newly appointed High Commissioner for National Minorities of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. Max van der Stoel.

5. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the six experts to exchange views on the progress reports of the Special Rapporteur and to supply him with a useful basis for guidance in the finalization of his final report.

6. Some of the observations made and ideas expressed may be of use also for the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session. It was not the purpose of the meeting to draft conclusions and recommendations, and the following elements do not necessarily reflect the views of all experts or observers. The views expressed, however, may be useful for the debate on the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992.

7. The meeting focused mainly on the experiences in different parts of the world regarding minority treatment with the aim of finding peaceful and constructive ways of solving conflicts in which minorities are involved. The meeting touched briefly on the need for elaboration of international mechanisms in this field.

8. Participants endorsed the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in the "Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277 and S/24111, para. 17), where it is stated:

"The time of absolute and exclusive sovereignty ... has passed; its theory was never matched by reality. ... Yet if every ethnic, religious or linguistic group claimed statehood, there would be no limit to fragmentation, and peace, security and economic well-being for all would become ever more difficult to achieve."

9. Participants noted the serious destabilizing effects of contemporary ethno-nationalist revivalism, which increase the difficulties facing minorities. The need for protection of minority rights appears to be more evident than ever, especially considering recent outbreaks of violence and even civil war, which may be directly attributable to ethnic or religious conflict.

10. One cause of the aggravated ethnic conflicts today is to be found in the breakdown of some multi-ethnic federations and the disintegration of the balance between different ethnic groups prevailing under those federal systems. The new political situations, while opening up for new democratic opportunities, have also been used in some places for irresponsible ethnic policies leading to an escalation of violence and counter violence. The parties to such conflicts eventually become helpless prisoners of their own violence, and depend on the international community to restore law and order.

11. It was observed that in times of vast political and institutional changes, pre-existing arrangements applying to nationalities and minorities, such as autonomy structures, should not be immediately demolished even if incompatible with the new structures, but that a transition period should be provided for in order to adopt confidence-building measures by which the groups concerned can adapt to the new situation without loss of identity or acquired rights.

12. Participants noted the serious consequences of the uncontrolled supply and trade of arms to groups in conflict, and urged that mechanisms be found to prevent such a flow. In some circumstances this may have to be combined with international peace enforcement to restore law and order when situations of ethnic conflict have degenerated into anarchy.

13. Participants discussed at length the problem of citizenship legislation at times of independence or restored independence, and noted that serious minority issues could arise from defective citizenship legislation. It was therefore argued that international standards should be adopted in this field.

14. It was further observed that for the maintenance of international peace it is essential to preserve, wherever possible, the national unity and territorial integrity of States, or the borders of union republics in case of dissolution of federations. The protection of minority rights must therefore be pursued in such a way that territorial integrity is not endangered, except in extreme situations where no other possibility exists to preserve the existence and identity of the group concerned.

15. The participants welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of National or Ethnic Persons Belonging to Religious and Linguistic Minorities and expressed their hope that its provision would be used more and more as a point of reference in the international human rights bodies and cited in

national and international court decisions. Appropriate protection of minority rights can be a constructive alternative to the much more dangerous drifts towards secessionism.

16. Domestic recourse procedures available to members of minorities are essential in order to avoid escalation of group conflicts. It would be useful that the provisions of the Declaration be made part of municipal law and used as a reference for domestic courts, for conciliation committees, or similar institutions and ombudsmen.

17. It was noted that no definition of minorities was contained in the Declaration. Participants doubted the necessity or usefulness of a definition. It had been an obstacle in the past to believe that a common definition and a common set of rights should apply to all minorities.

18. It was suggested that a more practical approach should be found. The emphasis should be on a proper analysis of the particular problem faced by the minority in a given situation, and to find a solution to that problem in conformity with international law in general and human rights instruments in particular. This should also guide the efforts to implement the new Declaration.

19. It was also observed that each individual has the right to identify himself or herself with a group of persons differing from the rest of society with distinct socio-cultural, religious, linguistic or ethnic character, and also that no person shall be obliged to identify himself or herself with any particular group.

20. It was pointed out that group rights can be accommodated in full respect of the territorial integrity of States, provided the parties make use of the wide range of options which can be derived from State practice in different parts of the world. The foundation should be in strict compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and equal political participation. Pluralism within multi-ethnic or multi-religious States can be safeguarded within a democratic framework based on rule of law guaranteeing the full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, through the implementation of legal rules that place effective restraints on the abuse of governmental power.

21. To achieve this, confidence-building may have to be adopted and broadly representative democratic systems be established where the different groups are given an effective voice in the management of affairs affecting them, and where conditions of social tolerance are promoted.

22. Participants reaffirmed that attention should be given to the serious problems faced by the Roma (gypsies) in many countries. Effective measures should be taken as soon as possible to achieve equality of opportunity between persons belonging to Roma and other residents.

23. Practices of ethnic cleansing was unreservedly condemned and participants emphasized that populations which had been forced to flee during periods of ethnic conflict should be entitled to return under conditions of safety. This must be an essential element in any peace plans relating to such conflicts.

24. The participants addressed the effects of earlier population transfers and generally of all State-sponsored mass population transfers. It was noted that these give rise to numerous human rights problems and negatively affect the situation of minorities. There is an urgent need to develop international standards and procedures regarding such transfers to deter them in general, to regulate them where they are permissible and to govern their consequences in a manner consistent with human rights norms.

25. Minority situations often give rise to bilateral tensions. Channels for responsible and constructive handling of disputes can sometimes be achieved through the adoption of bilateral arrangements, on a basis of reciprocity, between the two most directly concerned. The meeting was informed of current research on the content and effect of such bilateral arrangements and found it useful to explore this aspect further.

26. Issues concerning national minorities, as well as compliance with international obligations and commitments concerning the rights of persons belonging to them, are matters of legitimate international concern and consequently do not constitute exclusively an internal affair of the respective State. The participants noted that international mechanisms would be required in order to give effect to the Declaration. Several suggestions were made in this direction.

27. Mechanisms which might be established either under the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights or other agencies or by the establishment of new offices, might include a working group on minorities similar to the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples or a Special Rapporteur:

(a) To facilitate communication between minorities and Governments;

(b) To develop methods for conflict prevention or of peaceful transformation of conflicts in which the groups concerned have a voice;

(c) To develop methods of human rights education both for majorities and minorities in the spirit of article 26, paragraph 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; article 13, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Such education should include respect for minority and indigenous rights but also respect, by members of such groups, of the rights of all individuals belonging to other groups including the majority population.

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-ninth session
Agenda items 10, 12, 22, 24 and 27

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

GE.93-10521

Letter dated 29 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

I have the honour to enclose herein documents concerning the rape committed against children, girls and women of Serbian nationality on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the resolution on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament.

We would kindly ask you to have your office circulate these documents as official documentation of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 10, 12, 22, 24 and 27.

(Signed): Dr. Vladimir Pavicevic
Ambassador,
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the Resolution on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia examined the Resolution of the European Parliament on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia which denounced detention and raping of Muslim women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the Resolution completely ignored and did not condemn similar crimes committed against Serbian and other women in the region. The information received so far and the statements of victims who fled Bosnia and Herzegovina have been made available to the Federal Government and will be sent to the European Parliament. It has already been transmitted to the United Nations bodies as an official document.

The Federal Government is of the opinion that such crimes should be most strongly condemned and those responsible for them, whoever they are and wherever they have occurred, should be punished. We consider that the abuse of women in war zones, whether undertaken within the strategy of "ethnic cleansing" or for some other purposes, is an utterly inhumane act and a crime which is not only contrary to international humanitarian law but also to the basic precepts of morals, honesty and dignity.

The Federal Government disapproved of the one-sided approach espoused by the co-sponsors of the Resolution who, without adequately checking the allegations and prior to a properly conducted investigation and gathering of evidence, have blamed only Serbs for the abuses covered by the Resolution.

Precisely for this reason, we support the idea of an early establishment of impartial international investigative commissions which will be charged with the task of investigating facts and collecting the necessary information in order to try and punish those who committed these crimes. Such inquests, we firmly believe, will, on the basis of reliable information, also contribute to remove the biased and unproved doubts of EP as to the nationality of both perpetrators and victims of the crime of rape against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Believing that there is room for concern and timely response, even in case of the possibility of commission of such crimes and because of their obvious use as war propaganda, the Federal Government emphasizes its readiness to take part in the inquest by providing evidence on the crimes from sources available to it.

BELGRADE, 8 JANUARY 1993

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
FEDERAL ASSEMBLY

Belgrade, 30 December 1992

Mr. Egon Alfred KLEPSCH, President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. President,

Through the Yugoslav Consulate General in Strasbourg we have received the resolution on the raping of women in the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament.

We have noted that its paragraphs, in particular some of the allegations, are based on misinformation which might lead to false, harmful and perilous conclusions.

We believe that this was the result of the one-sided and biased approach to the Yugoslav crisis by the European Parliament over a longer period as a consequence of its reliance entirely on one source of information.

Preambular paragraphs B, C and D and operative paragraph 1 of the resolution are the most flagrant examples of distortion of facts blaming only Serbian militias for the war crimes of raping Moslem women in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is well known, however, that the war crimes of rape have been committed by all the three parties to the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Therefore, any insistence on the responsibility of only one party over the other two would minimize or justify their crimes. The most striking allegation is the one in preambular paragraph C that the Serbian militias hold large number of women in brothels while, in reality, such systematic crimes have been committed almost exclusively by Moslem militias who have organized brothels in which women are sexually abused with the full knowledge and acknowledgment of the recognized Moslem authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina (e.g. brothels in Sarajevo, Tuzla).

We express our deep resentment of the superficial and inaccurate nature of the information referred to in the Resolution and wish to draw attention to its deleterious effects on the truth and the cause of peace.

The Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is in possession of information which, if it had been used, would have made the adopted text more balanced. Accordingly, this information shall be made available to the members of the European Parliament for their use on request.

A visit by a delegation of the European Parliament to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or a delegation of the Federal Assembly to Strasbourg could, in our opinion, contribute to a better perception of facts and to joining our efforts aimed at an immediate and unconditional cessation of all hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the quickest and most effective way of ending all violations of human rights and war crimes committed in the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We look forward to an early response on your part concerning the matter.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE CHAMBER
OF REPUBLICS
(Signed) Dr Miloš Radulović
President

FOR THE CHAMBER
OF CITIZENS
(Signed) Jugoslav Kostić
President

Serbian Medical Association
B e o g r a d

Beograd, 14 January 1993

PROTEST OF THE DOCTORS OF SERBIA

On behalf of the doctors of Serbia we strongly protest against and are repelled at the absurd allegations of Mr. Stefan Schwartz, a member of German Parliament, about in vivo experiments of "Serbian doctors on Muslim women". In his speech delivered in German Parliament and in his statements on television, published in late December in the German newspaper "Bild am Sontag" and in the Dutch newspapers "Haagache Courant" and "Folkskrant", Mr. Schwartz alleged on the basis of the statement made by a witness that criminal experiments had been carried out particularly on Muslim women.

The absurdity of this statement and the sick and evil intentions are demostrated by the fact that evidence for such allegations which equal the worst horror movie is sought in the statement of an unidentified Croatian woman doctor who said that during the autopsy on a Muslim woman she found an implanted dog embryo in her uterus after abortion. The purpose of this story is evidently to further demonize the Serbs and Serbian doctors in an unending process culminating in insanity.

We recall that the Serbial Medical Association and its Ethics Committee have, in the best tradition of Serbian medicine, always supported peace and appealed a number of times against the destruction of cities, killing of people, horrors of the so-called ethnic cleansing and other bestialities accompanying this civil, ethnic and religious war. It has also supported tolerance and the highest humanistic principles.

Among the 540,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina who fled to Serbia, there are 34,000 Muslims, 8,000 Croats, 43,000 others (Jews, Romanies, Hungarians, Albanians, Bulgarians and others) who received free medical treatment and all other benefits enjoyed by Serbian refugees.

The doctors of Serbia demand that their reputation be protected and accuse those who, with impunity and without any evidence, mar their reputation. We hope that these senseless and grotesque allegations will backfire on those who spread them primarily in their own communities.

For the Ethics Committee
of the Serbian Medical
Association
Prof.Dr. Milan Popović
Chairman

For the Serbian Medical
Association
Prof.Dr. Vojin Šulović
Academician
President

State Commission for War
Crimes and the Crime of Genocide

MEMORANDUM

ON THE CRIMES OF RAPE OF CHILDREN, GIRLS AND WOMEN OF SERBIAN NATIONALITY IN THE BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN VILLAGE OF NOVI GRAD-THE COMMUNE OF ODŽAK

ŠAMAC
Decembar 24, 1992
Prepared by research fellow
for the State Commission for
War Crimes and the Crimes of
Genocide

MEMORANDUM

ON THE CRIMES OF RAPE OF CHILDREN, GIRLS AND WOMEN OF SERBIAN NATIONALITY IN THE BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN VILLAGE OF NOVI GRAD - THE COMMUNE OF ODZAK

This memorandum presents so far collected and verified data on the crimes of rape of children, girls and women of Serbian nationality in the village of Novi Grad, committed from May 8 to July 15,1992 by members of the Croatian occupying formations. This is only a part of a comprehensive file on war crimes and the crime of genocide committed against the Serbian people in the region of Bosanska Posavina in the following Serbian villages: Donja Dubica, Trnjak, Struke, Novi Grad, Gnionica and in the Serbian section of Gornji Svilaj in the commune of Odzak.

War was imposed on the Serbs in this part of Bosanska Posavina on April 19,1992. On that day units of the Croatian National Guard of the Republic of Croatia crossed the Sava river and aided by members of the Croatian Democratic Union from the area of the commune of Odzak in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina started their crimes by murdering the Serb parliamentarian in the village of Struke, Rajko (father Dusan) Djuric, president of the Serbian Democratic Party of the village of Donja Dubica.

Having been surrounded by these forces, the villagers of the Serbian villages Donja Dubica and Trnjak fled their homesteads. Refugee columns of women and children from these villages came to the largest Serbian village, Novi Grad, where the Serbs from the area organized a common defence lest they again be the victims of genocide like on December 7 and 8 in 1944. Let us remind that during those two days Pavelic's hordes slaughtered everything in sight in Trnjak and Dubica. Just because they were Serbs, 713 men, women and children were murdered. Now, almost half a century later, neo-fascism has brought new trials to the Serbs here. In these villages the villagers found themselves encircled by 16 hostile Croatian and Moslem villages, including the town of Odzak.

Under around-the-clock artillery fire from the territory of another state - the Republic of Croatia- , specifically from the village of Jaruga, across the Sava river, the villagers suffered heavy casualties. The village was devastated and many of their wounded defenders died for lack of medicaments or adequate medical treatment. The United Nations, and in particular UNPROFOR, were regularly informed of the tragedy of the Serbian people in this area, but there was no help nor in fact any response.

Having been given assurances by the occupying army from the Republic of Croatia that if the defenders stopped resisting they would enable all the villagers to cross over to free Serbian territory, the Serbs believed them and accepted the offer, but, however, instead of in freedom, on May 8,1992 all the villagers ended up in the camps "Strolit" and the elementary school in Odzak. In the ten days that followed, all the women and children were returned to the village in groups. This deliberate act of the Ustashi authorities proved tragic for not only the women, but also the children.

A special unit of the Croatian Defence Council, named " Vatreni konji" (Horses of Fire) committed countless crimes against civilians of Serb nationality. In addition to destroying and burning houses and places of worship in the territory of the Serbian villages in the commune of Odzak, torturing and killing camp inmates, it will be remembered for its mass rape of children, girls and women, especially in the village of Novi Grad. These crimes were attended by cruel physical maltreatment, abuse and humiliation of the victims. Aware of the fact that their victims were defenceless as all

victims. Aware of the fact that their victims were defenceless as all the men had remained in camps in Odzak, this fanatical Ustashi gang indulged in frenzied sadistic orgies until July 15, 1992, i.e. until this region was liberated by the army of the Republic of Srpska. That they were driven by pathological as well as greater- Croatian passions was attested to by numerous examples.

In June 1992, this special unit, which formation-wise was part of the 102nd brigade of the Croatian Defence Council, locked 16 persons (women and children) inside the house of Djakovic (Branka) Mile in Novi Grad and then set the house on fire. By jumping out of the windows the women and children managed to save themselves at the last minute.

In Vrbovacki Lipik, after tying up Topic (father Ljubo) Milan and his wife Topic Nada, having accused them of possessing arms, they placed straw around them and set it on fire to force the Topics to confess to possessing arms. When the flames started licking them they let them move away from the fire. After that they beat Milan Topic severely and raped his wife Nada.

In this area Croatian terrorists committed numerous murders, which defy description in terms of cruelty and brutality. Although they had more than enough arms, they killed people as a rule by battering them to death and by unspeakable torture. Topic (father Simo) Mihajlo, nicknamed "Mijo", born in 1913 in Vrbovacki Lipik was killed on July 5, 1992 by Mato Barusic, an Ustashi from the village of Pecnik, who stoned him to death, showering him in the head and chest with stones, like in the Middle Ages. People would be dying for days in excruciating pain. Women were not spared such cruelty either.

The Ustashi shut Rakic (father Mijo) Simka in a house and burnt her alive; Lesic (father Jovan) Slavka, born in 1962 in Vrbovacki Lipik, was killed on May 2, 1992 by the Ustashi Tado from the village of Pecnik. He even bragged about that murder before the camp inmates - Serbs, saying that his sniper gun missed no Chetniks;

Zoranovic (father Petar) Zorka, an old woman from Novi Grad, born in 1913, was killed without any reason at all in front of her own home by her neighbour, an Ustashi from the hamlet of Potop."

Tudjman's "knights" raped at every step. While the women were detained at the camp in Odzak, they introduced into this form of crime a manner of humiliation peculiar only to them. The Ustashi organized what they called a " camp wedding". The victims of this crime had to substantially differ in physical appearance, age, height, educational level, etc. The inventor of this form of terrorization and humiliation is assistant camp warden Josip Tolic, son of Ruza from Bele Bare near Odzak. The first experiment involved a school teacher from Gradacac and a selected inmate, both of Serb nationality. At gun point the selected partners had to perform sexual intercourse in front of the Ustashi. The first, as they said "wedding night" was accompanied by music. A camp inmate played the guitar.

Another example describes how minor Serb camp inmates were forced to rape the mentally deranged girl Stoja, a Serb from Novi Grad. After they refused to do it and were severely battered, the Ustashi offered the other inmates, hungry and emaciated, " a good dinner" if they volunteered to rape the girl.

After repeated complaints lodged with the Ustashi public security service of Novi Grad by desperate mothers and grandmothers in connection with the constant crime of rape, the Ustashi ordered that all the women and girls be accommodated in two houses in the immediate vicinity of the police station, explaining that thus " they could be

protected from Croatian extremists". Most of the women made the fatal mistake of believing them because thus rounded up they were even easier prey to the rampageous Ustashi. The Ustashi would come and barge in groups into those houses without any obstacle whatsoever and take away their selected victims. They would wrest them away in the harshest way from the arms of their weeping mothers.

That they would stop at nothing is also demonstrated by the example of Ninkovic (father Drago) Jovanka. To make her tell where she had hid her daughter they placed a burning rag in the palm of her hand, but she endured the terrible pain and saved her child.

* The identity of this Ustashi criminal is being investigated.

On the basis of the investigations conducted so far into this form of crime in Novi Grad, the number of persons raped obtained is 26 persons aged from 9 to 60. Except for isolated cases, it was mostly gang rape with up to 8 criminals raping one victim.*

The authentic testimonies of the victims of the crime of rape have been deposited with the authorities of the Republic of Srpska and the State Commission of FR Yugoslavia for War Crimes and the Crime of Genocide. As these are delicate and deeply disturbing intimate experiences, in order to protect the integrity of the persons involved we are presenting the basic facts depicting the magnitude of their ordeal using the initials of the victims who have made statements. The most tragic victims of this war are without a doubt children, so that we shall start with such an example:

SM - 9 years and 8 months old, raped on July 5, 1992. The perpetrator of the crime is Mato Barukcic from the village of Pecnik.

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* Rape is a crime of a special type. It is an assault on human reproduction and the trauma lasts for life. Many factors make it difficult to ascertain the full truth about the massive scale of the crimes of rape committed :

First, quite a few women have stated that they would give their depositions once the members of their families returned from camps in Croatia, as they feared for their lives, with reason;

Second, the victims come from patriarchal backgrounds, so that due to those and other reasons they are loth to recount the details of their ordeals irrespective of assurances that their personal integrity would be respected;

and

Third, depositions from a number of women should be taken when they return to this area which they left immediately after liberation to go to stay with their relatives in Serbia or abroad. The protection of the victims of this crime must be planned and organized. For a long time to come this will be a test of conscience for humanitarian organizations and a number of institutions in the country and abroad.

Witness Radulovic D. Danica says about this crime : " On July 5, 1992 the Ustashi Mato Barukcic from the village of Pecnik came into the house. He started hitting me and feeling up the girl's legs, saying how beautiful they were. He pointed a gun at me and placed a knife at my throat. He then whisked away the meal in front of me and started eating. He told me to go and bury grandfather Mihajlo Topic (79) whom he had killed, while he told me that others had killed him. And he killed the old man with a stone. I did not want to go and he hit me with his feet and fists swearing at me cursing my Chetnik mother. He started to lead the little SM out of the house and I would not let him take the child away. He wrested her away from me and took her to the forest, about a kilometer away. I started screaming for help and then Radulovic T. Sretko came. I told him that the Ustashi had taken the child to the forest. A policeman, the son of Joze Jurisic and the son of Pera Vranic went and brought another three policemen, as they did not dare go after the child alone. After a while they brought her back teary and disheveled."

Witness Radulovic T. Sretko, inter alia, says the following about the same crime: " On July 5, 1992 I heard a scream and I rushed out of the house. I saw an Ustashi leading the nine- year old LSM towards the forest , across my potato patch. I stopped two soldiers who called the police. Two policemen went into the forest and came back. They said that they had found nobody. Then they went in again and found traces - trampled grass - and then caught sight of the criminal with the child. I heard shots, and then he was escorted back together with the child".

In the statement given by victim OPS - 15 years of age-, she, inter alia, states the following: " On July 3, 1992 at 23.oo hours, a group of Ustashi came riding a van and a car to the house of Drago Vladic where there were about 15 of us, women and children. All eight of them entered the house with arms and battery torches and started cudgelling everyone inside with a stick. They ordered me to go outside, and as I refused they started to pull me away from my mother who was clutching me. She begged them not to take me away, saying to them : " I too am a Croatian ". But they started hitting my mother as well and pushed me out. They took me and another girl, ALV to Posavska Mahala, me to the house of Mate Brnic and ALV to a forest near-by. Marjan Brnic stayed with ALV. Then I was raped in the house by Marjan Brnic while Ilija Brnic kept guard. When Ilija Brnic entered the room to rape me too, the police came and took us all to the police station in Novi Grad. Then they brought in also ALV and Marjan Brnic. Then a relative of Ilija Brnic came to the station, uniformed and armed. He threatened that if they did not let them go the whole of Posavska Mahala would rise and demolish the police station. Then the policemen released them, returned their weapons to them, and I and ALV were driven home by Ivo the chief policeman."

The same person, in her statement about another crime of rape committed against her, said : " On July 12, 1992 at 20.oo hours two Ustashi came in front of the house of Panta Tadic and ordered us all (some 30 women and children) to line up in the yard. In the meantime another armed Ustashi came and stayed at the gate. They forced me and LAT into a car and took us to a house in Novo Selo. There I was raped by an Ustashi called "Cutura". After that another 15 Ustashi came to the house. Another three Ustashi raped me, among which an Ustashi called "Patak". About 21.00 hours the Ustashi Marko and Ilija took me back home."

BPM, 17 years old, says in her statement: " In the night between July 13 and 14, 1992, the Ustashi took us to Bosanski

Brod into a camp - a building material warehouse, where they separated the older women from the younger ones and girls. I, MDjJ, NTB, ZGA, BMJ and BDM were put into a separate room. The same day Jurica Bozic came to our room, took me to the adjacent room and raped me. After a couple of days Anto Golubovic did the same, forcibly raped me in a nearby house. Topolovac Simo raped me in his car near the oil refinery and Tolic Josip raped me in the same house as Anto Golubovic. Golubovic Anto and Topolovac Simo repeatedly came for me and raped me."

MDjJ, 21 years old, states: " On returning from the camp in Odzak all the women and girls from Novi Grad returned home. It was, however precisely then that their plight and ordeal started, especially of younger women and girls. Some 25 women and girls were accommodated in the house of Mile Djakovic. My ordeal started on July 10, 1992, when I, NTB and BJM were forcibly taken to Bosanski Brod by Anto Golubovic, camp warden in Odzak, and his assistants Josip Tolic and Jurica Bozic. They assured us that they wanted to protect us from abuse by extremists. And while my friends would be forcibly taken out of the camp (NTB by Josip Tolic and the others by those Ustashi who were given permission by Ante and Josip), I enjoyed the protection of the prison warden until August 8, 1992 when, threatening and blackmailing me saying that he would take revenge on my brother and father, he forced me to have sexual intercourse. He raped me in the flat of a friend of his ; on August 18 1992 I was exchanged and my brother and a cousin stayed on in the camp."

SNM, 42 years old, states: " On June 4, 1992, around 1.30 hours two cars pulled up in front of the house of Mira Brocilovic where fourteen women and children were hidden. They started to shoot and then, swearing at us, saying that we were hiding Chetniks, they demanded that we all get out of the house. After that they lined us up and forced four of us : me, TDjN, PSD and TLLj into a car and took us to Posavska Mahala. They took me to a neighbouring house, into the stable loft. There, threatening me with a knife, five Ustashi gang-raped me. Their names are : Brnjic Marjan, Barukcic Jozo, Glavas Ilija, Glavas Pavao and Barukcic Martin. Around 5.30 hours they drove us away through the forest shooting at us from behind."

LTA, 26 years old, states: "On July 12, 1992, around 20.00 hours three Ustashi came to the house where there were about 15 women. They had on uniforms with checkered flag insignia and were armed. They forced us all out of the house and lined us up in the yard. They pushed me and OPS into a car and took us to Novo Selo. An Ustashi called "Patak" fired at the windows of the surrounding houses as we left. They separated us in separate rooms. An Ustashi by the name of "Cutura" came into the room bringing me contraception pills. Then the Ustashi called "Patak" came in and raped me, followed by one Niko from Novo Selo. He raped me too. Then six Ustashi came in with helmets on, dirty, like from the trenches, and all six of them raped me. In the morning around 8.30 hours they took us home."

TLLJ, 37 years old, says in her statement: " Between June 4 and 5, 1992 , at 12.30 hours two cars pulled up in front of the house of Drago Ninkovic. Five Ustashi entered the house: Marjan Brnic, Ilija Glavas, Pero Glavas, Ilija Juric and Jozo Barukcic and they forced me out of the house and to the house of Mira Brocilo, where they also took TDjM, SNM, and PSD and then took us all to the village of Posavska Mahala. They forced the three of them into the house of Mate Barbara and me into the house of Jela

Glavas. Martin Barukcic came to my room first, and then Marjan Brnic, Ilija Glavas, Pavao Glavas, Ilija Juric and Jozo Barukcic and they all raped me. In the morning, at 5.30 hours they sent us home on foot, shooting at us from behind."

PCD, 22 years old, states: " Between June 4 and 5, 1992, at 1.30 hours, two cars pulled up in front of the house of Mila Brocilo where five of us women were hidden and two boys and another four children. They forced us all out of the house. They cursed our Serbian mothers and accused us that we were allegedly hiding Chetniks. They forced me, TDjM, CNM and TLLj into a car and drove us along a forest road to Posavska Mahala to the house of Mate Barbara. They placed us in rooms. Marjan Brnic came first into mine and raped me threatening that he would murder me. After him Glavas (father Ivo) Pavo, Glavas (father Ivo) Ilija, Juric (father Marko) Ilija, Barukcic (father Jurke) Mato and Barukcic M.Jozo all raped me. In the morning around 5.30 hours they sent us home through the forest, shooting at our backs."

TDjM, 29 years old, states: " Between June 4 and 5, 1992 two cars pulled up in front of the house of Mira Brocilo and five Ustashi entered the house. Marjan Brnic, Jozo Barukcic, Ilija Glavas, Pavo Glavas and Martin Barukcic, and Ilija Juric was also with them. They forced me, CNM, PSD out of the house and took us to the village of Posavska Mahala and to the house of Mate Barbara and grouped us by room. The first to come into mine was Marjan Brnic, and then all the others enumerated earlier. They all raped me. They beat me and swore at me cursing my Chetnik mother. In the morning at 5.30 hours they drove us out and sent us home shooting behind us."

RKB, 38 years old, states:" On June 7, 1992, around 12.00 hours, five Ustashi in uniform and armed came in front of my house. Three of them entered the house. Two collected valuables and one came to the other room where I was. Threatening me with arms and a knife he raped me and then forced me to perverse acts. The names of these criminals are known because they have raped other people in the village also."

KPV, 40 years old, states: " On June 30, 1992 at 16.00 hours five Ustashi arrived in front of my house,uniformed and armed. Two remained in the house and two went to a neighbouring one. In that group was also the son of Mate Tipura from Posavska Mahala. One of the Ustashi then raped me. He was a member of the notorious Ustashi gang called " Vatreni konji". The other group went to the house of Ljubisa Sisljagic and there they raped RPS. After three to four days the same Ustashi with another one came to my house again. They drove my mother out of the room and both raped me ."

In her statement, **JSM**, 36 years old, says , inter alia:" On June 30, 1992 around 13.30 hours a yellow van with four uniformed and armed Ustashi pulled up in front of the house. Three of them entered the house and one remained in the van. They were allegedly looking for arms and threatening to kill my children.The three in the house dragged me upstairs by force and all of them raped me. Afterwards I learnt that two were from Posavska Mahala and two from Donji Svilaj. They belonged to the same gang of criminals that had been raping villagers."

JVJ, 50 years old, stresses in her statement:" On June 3, 1992, three Ustashi came ostensibly looking for weapons. They rounded us all up, some ten women and three children. They took me to a house in Potocanski Lipik and there two Ustashi raped

me. One of them was born in 1970. After the rape they ordered me to go home through the forest. They belonged to the group known as "Vatreni konji", a part of the Croatian Defence Council."

Mass rape was not enough for the Croatian extremists so they resorted to additional forms of humiliation of their victims. A characteristic example is that of a 37-year old woman. a mother with children, whom on June 8 1992, after raping her, Sicic Pavo (father Ivc) forced to walk stark naked through the village in broad daylight.

After the army of the Republic of Croatia was defeated in this area and as it withdrew from July 13 to 15, 1992 before the army of the Republic of Srpska, they took along as hostages, in addition to men - camp inmates, also a large number of women and girls of Serbian nationality. These civilian victims (men) were used to dig trenches, mainly during artillery shelling, so that many were killed or severely wounded. They abused the women and the girls and afterwards exchanged them for captured Croatian soldiers.

Throughout their stay in the camp in Bosanski Brod the women and girls were constantly maltreated and raped. A professor from Derventa, a Serb, made use of the first visit of International Red Cross representatives and informed them (slipped them a note) that the Croatian Ustashi were keeping hidden women and girls in the camp. The International Red Cross found these victims and included them in the exchange, but, for "revealing that Ustashi secret" this honourable man was cruelly battered to death by the Ustashi in front of the whole camp. The perpetrators of this crime are Golubovic (father Marko) Anto from Odzak and Tolic Josip, son of Ruza from Bele Bare, near Odzak.

The criminal rapists from the village of Novi Grad left a written document behind testifying to the crimes they committed. That is the Report of the Security Service of Novi Grad of June 15, 1992. In it are registered nine reported crimes of rape in just one night, between June 4 and 5 1992. These reports were filed by the grandmothers, mothers of the victims or by the rape victims themselves, with the Ustashi authorities doing absolutely nothing to prevent their chargers from doing it, because that particular crime is a component method of the policy implemented by the Croatian authorities.

In Annex I which forms an integral part of this Memorandum we are enclosing a photostatic copy of this Report and the original is with the State Commission for War Crimes and the Crime of Genocide.

In this area the Ustashi committed massive atrocities in which, by way of moral and psychological support, Catholic priests also participated. In the room adjacent to the one in which Serbs were tortured and killed in the camp at the Novi Grad elementary school, a catholic Prayer book was found, open at a page with the title " say your prayers". That page of this holy book, under the visit card of Pera Simic, reads: " Answer, oh Lord, the prayers of those who humbly pray to you and forgive their sins to those who confess and beg for your forgiveness and merciful peace. Bestow oh Lord your bountiful mercy on us all and absolve us from all our sins and exonerate us from the punishment that we deserve for them"

A list of perpetrators of war and genocide crimes in the village of Novi Grad whose

identities have been ascertained to date is enclosed as Annex II to this Memorandum and has been compiled on the basis of statements of the victims and testimonies of witnesses. Collection of complete data on other victims of war crimes and of the crime of genocide committed in these Serbian areas as well as of data on their perpetrators is in progress.

S-J-B Odzak
S-J-S N. Grad
Public Security Station
June 15, 1992.

ANEX I

REPORT

JUNE 5 AND 6, 1992 FROM 07 - 07 HRS.

- 10.10 hrs. - We gave 20 liters of gas for Golf vehicle - the driver was Cubel Mato.

- 11 hrs. - June, 4/5 1992, after midnight, at 1.30 hrs., five unknown armed persons in camouflage uniforms took four women from the house of Brocilovic Mira in the direction of Posavska Mahala (from G. Brezik) and placed two of them in two houses each where they were raped by a large number of men. This case was reported by Djekic Milica, mother of three children, born in 1963. in G. Klakar, the commune of Bosanski Brod, residence N. Grad. She said that she had been raped by five men and that they violated her severely and that she was profusely bleeding. A certificate was issued to her permitting her to go to the Health centre in Odzak and obliging her to return.

- Certificate were issued for a medical examination to the following: Krsic Bosiljka, Djekic Milica.

- 11.30 hrs. - Women and children started assembling in front of the S.J.S. (Public Security Station) of Novi Grad. Some 40 of therm gathered. Some were crying and some were wailing and saying how they did not dare return to their homes because they were affraid of rapists and looters. Military police was informed of the matter as was the head of the Odzak S.J.B. On our request to disperse, the crowd returned to their homes by 15.45. hrs.

- 12 hrs. - Stjepanovic Anto from Sijekovac, born on November 17, 1930. in Korace, the commune of Bosanski Brod, identity card No. 87/82, issued on January 19, 1982 in Bosanski Brod, drove some things from home of Djurdjic Dobra from Novi Grad to Sijekovac.
Liventory: a refrigerator, a laundry drier, a steel shelf set, bed linen, crockery and some machine shop tools. These things belong to Djordjic Dobra, who is Stjepanovic Ante's son in law. Dobro and his wife live in Germany.

- 14 hrs. - A married woman was reported missing, taken away in the night between June4 and 5, 1992 from the house of Mira Brocilovic with another 3 women. The missing person is Stojanovic Duska, the spouse of Zivko Stojanovic. She was reported missing by her grandmother Ruza Bogdanovic from N. Grad. At 17 hrs. Ruza reported that Duska had returned home around 15 hrs. and that she had also been raped.

- 16.30 hrs. - Lesic Ljubica, who had been raped in the night beetwen June 4 and 5, 1992 was taken by car by the patrol of the Ist sector of Kopic Andrija to the Odzak Health Centre. Lesic Ljubica was returned to her home at 17 hrs. The medical examination findings are with the doctor in Odzak.

Military policeman Vanga Ivan brought Milica Djokic who had been raped for interrogation. At 17 hrs. he brought her to N. Grad.

- 18.30 hrs. - A navy blue "Jugo", licence plate N. MD 295-12 was noticed parked near the inn of Bumbic Neda. This was reported by Krsic Bosiljka who said that that car had also been near her house and in the neighbourhood. She also said that she thought that they were some of the rapists. A patrol was sent there but the car had gone in an unknown direction.

- 18.40 hrs. A patrol of the Ist sector led by Vrsnic Tadija, patrolling Vrhovacki Lipik, found out from Grudelj Marjan that Brica Marjan from P. Mahala had pointed a gun at Mrsic Jelena from Lipik demanding weapons from her. He had told her that he was authorized for such investigations.

- 18.45 hrs. - Ribic Mara, N. Grad, born on August 11, 1933 reported that she had been raped. Four camouflage-uniformed and armed persons had barged into her house. First they asked for arms and then one of them took Mara out of demolished building and there took two rings and a gold chain from her. And then they raped her. They came in a blue "Jugo 45". From the house they looted the TV set, the video deck and took a gold ring from Djuka Pavic.

- 19 hrs. A patrol comprising Zratic Mato, Grgic Stjepan, Kopic Andrija and Antunovic Jurica, on inspecting the terrain and the dump sites found at 19.30 on June 5, 1992 2 bombs and one protective mask and a set of eating utensils.

- 22.40 hrs. - Dujak Anto and Vanga Ivan came with two military policemen. They said that they had come to help us tonight and that they would return occasionally during the night.

Lovric Zoran did not show up for his shift.

Assistant Comm. of S.J.S. of N. Grad
Brkic

ANEX II

LIST OF PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME
OF RAPE INDICATING THE ARMED
FORMATIONS THEY BELONG TO

The persons listed hereunder were from May to August 1992 members of the regular units of the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia, specifically of the 102nd Brigade of the Croatian Defence Council (CDC) as commanders of smaller units which engaged in combat operations in the territory of the commune of Odzak. At the same time they were members of a special CDC unit named "Vatreni konji" (horses of Fire) and as part of that unit they committed war crimes against the Serbian civilian population. They destroyed and burned down houses and places of worship in the territory of the commune of Odzak, they killed and maltreated camp inmates, and, in particular, they mass- raped children, girls and women of Serbian nationality which crime was attended by severe physical maltreatment, abuse and humiliation.

1. GOLUBOVIC (father Marko) ANTO, born od October 4, 1969 in Gradacac, residence Odzak, No. 152, M.Tita street, currently at the Orasje battlefield.

2. AHMETOVIC (father Hilme) IBRAHIM, alis "Ibe", born on August 8, 1958 in Odzak, residence Odzak, No. 11, Mihe Miletica street, at large.

3. PUDIC (father Mate) ILIJA, born on November 20, 1959 in Odzak, residence Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, at large.

4. JUSIC (father Marko) ILIJA, born od October 7, 1948 in Odzak, residence Potocani, the commune of Odzak, at large.

5. STAZIC (father Jure) ANTO, born on May 18, 1970 in Odzak, residence Odzak, No. 173, R. Porobica street, at large.

6. BAJUSIC (father Stjepan) MARKO, born on June 2, 1961, in Posavska Mahala, The commune of Odzak, residence Posavska Mahala, at large.

7. HRNJKAS (faather Pave) MARKO, born on January 1, 1964 in Prnjavor, the commune of Odzak, residence Prnjavor, at large.

8. GLAVAS (father Ive) PAVO, born on December 7, 1951 in Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, residence Posavska Mahala, at large.

9. BARUKCIC (father Martin) JOZO, born on march 1, 1961 in Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, residence Posavska MAhala, at large.

10. CALUSIC (father Mate) MARIJAN, born on June 17, 1967 in Potocani, the commune od Odzak, residence Potocani, at large.

11. BRNJIC (father Mate) MARIJAN, bron on June 15, 1966 in Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, residence Posavska Mahala, at large.

12. CALUSIC (father Mate) JURO, born on March 13, 1964 in Potocani, the commune of Odzak, residence Potocani, at large.

13. CALUSIC (father Jure) MATO, born on February 24, 1935 in Potocani, the commune of Odzak, residence Potocani, at large.

14. GLAVAS (father Ive) ILIJA, born on May 1, 1968 in Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, residence Posavska Mahala, at large.

15. STANIC (father Ive) MARKO, born on March 17, 1957 in Donja Dubica, the commune of Odzak, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

16. CUKIC (father Sime) JOZO, born on March 24, 1967 in Donja Dubica, the commune of Odzak, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

17. JURIC (father Joze) MARINKO, born on February 2, 1960 in Donja Dubica, the commune of Odzak, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

18. CUKIC (father Jure) SIMO, borna in Donja Dubica in the commune of Odzak, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

19. JURIC (father Ive) ANDJELKO, born on May 21, 1965 in Donja Dubica, the commune of Odzak, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

20. JURIC (father Petar) JOZO, born on September 12, 1962 in Posavski Samac, residence Donja Dubica, at large.

21. KIKIC (father Stjepan) Marko, born on November 2, 1953 in Odzak, detained in the district prison of Doboj.

22. TOLIC (Ruza) Josip, born in 1967, from Bijele Bare, the commune of Odzak, currently at Orasje battlefield.

23. TOPOLOVAC SIMO, from Ada, the commune of Odzak, at large.*

24. KAURINOVIC MARKO, alias "Patak" from Posavska mahala, the commune of Odzak, at large.

25. BOZIC JURICA from Potocani, the commune of Odzak, at large.

26. BARUSIC (father Jure) MATO, alias "Martinac" from Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, at large.

* Completion of the collection of data on the crimes committed is in progress.

27. BARUKCIC MATO, born in 1966, from village of Pecbuha, the commune of Modrica, at large.

28. JURIC (father Pave) ILIJA, alias "Bekrija", from Potocani, the commune of Odzak, at large.

29. SICIC (father Ive) PAVO from Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak, at large.

30. SVRZLIC (father Petar) ANTO, born in 1967, from Donji Svilaj, the commune of Odzak, at large.

31. KOPACEVIC (father Ante) JURO, born inb 1962, from Donji Svilaj, the commune of Odzak, at large.

32. .....NIKO, from Novo Selo, the commune of Odzak, at large.

33. .....alias "Cutura", the commune of Odzak, at large.

34. DJOJIC ILIJA, alias "Kelin" from Novo Selo, the commune of Odzak.

35. DJOJIC TOMO from Novo selo, the commune of Odzak, at large.

36. TIPURA (father Mate) ....., from Posavska Mahala, the commune of Odzak.

DEPOSITION MADE VOLUNTARILY BY S. V. FROM KAKANJ ON 5 JANUARY 1993

I was born in 1968 at Visoko. We moved to Kakanj in 1969. There, I finished the elementary and secondary schools. I am now a student at the Faculty of Political Science.

What I would like to say, besides this case, is that never in my life have I declared myself as a Serb. I, therefore, think that all that has been happening to me has happened because I am not a Moslem but because my name is S.

The moment the refugees began to flock to Kakanj began the exodus of the entire population from Serbian villages. Now, there is no Serbian village around Kakanj. In places where no Moslem ever lived the Moslem flag is now flying.

In early August, a Serbian village 10 km from Kakanj was burned, they then went to other surrounding villages and gave the villagers a deadline to leave a day or two. So, one day, my granny's neighbour came over and drove my granny away, since she was expelled. My granny is old and sick; she has a serious heart condition. She took nothing with her.

The following day, in mid-August, I went to her house to fetch medicines and clothes. As I approached the village of Rascevina, I saw many unknown and armed people. I did not pay much attention to that. I believed that nothing could happen, although we had the information that they slaughtered two people near Kakanj in those days.

I entered my granny's house and took the things I wanted. I stayed an hour and a half in the house. Two men entered the house; they did not wear uniforms; one of them wore a camouflage blouse or jacket and as he put on the shirt I saw an emblem with blue lilies on it; the same emblem was on his hat. The other one wore a civilian green uniform. They came in and asked me who I was and what I was doing there. I told them that it was my granny's house and that I came to take her clothes. I also told them that I wanted to take her pills since she had a serious heart condition. They told me that I was not allowed to take the pills, that they would expel all Serbs, that Serbs were to blame for all the troubles, they cursed my Cetnik mother. After that, I told them: "Stay where you are, I will get the things and return to Kakanj." They told me that I was not allowed to leave the house since they needed me. I thought they were joking. I tried to talk with them, to tell them what I my convictions were. My brother was in the Patriotic League. We continued to live side by side with other nations and

I tried to explain to them that we had friends in the leadership of the territorial defence. Then I told them that my family would be looking for me, that they were expecting me to come back. But it was to no avail. However, I still hoped that they would let me go. But they locked the door. They did not let me go out. They had some canned food. They told me to prepare lunch for them and I consented. While we ate, I tried to talk to them again. In the evening, around 8 p.m., there was no electricity; it was time to go to bed. One of them said: "You are going to sleep with me." I begged him, I began to scream and cry. He slapped me twice and took me to my granny's room. I begged him to let me go. He told me it was no use for me to cry. He grabbed me shoulder and pushed me onto the bed. He told me to take off my clothes. I curled up and refused to do so. He grabbed my shirt with one hand and tore off the buttons. He took off all my clothes. Then he did what he wanted to do. At one moment, he began to kiss my face, but I had long nails and scratched his face so that it began to bleed. He paid no attention to that. When he finished, he told me he would keep me there. He told me I could go and wash my face. Granny had no bathroom. They fetched water and chopped wood. I washed my face, took a bath and returned to the room; he came to the room no more. When I got up, he told me again to prepare something for them to eat. Then they went out, locked the door, closed the window shutters. I could not go out. The village is located along the railway line. On the lower part of the line, there are three houses, 400-500 metres away from each other. Some of them are very close to the forest so I could not see anything.

I began to scream. One of them came in and told me not to scream or else he would kill me and my entire family. He began to curse my Cetnik mother. One of them said: "If you want to save yourself and your family, you keep quiet." He prepared water, wood, food and then re-appeared. One of them left and did not show up for three days; the other one stayed and we had intercourse every evening. He did not beat me but he was very rude. He did not talk much, he only swore on occasions. As much as I could understand from their conversation, and they talked little and swore more often, they were fighting near Cekrcice and Visoko. They talked very little and one of them was always in the house, as one of them would go and the other would come back. This lasted until early September, 1 or 2 September.

Then, I began to bleed and I thought I had my period. One of them told me: "There, you are not pregnant, you may go".

I suppose that, in the meantime, my brother and friends were looking for me so that they found out who I was and wanted to let me go; so I came home. I did not dare say anything to my parents. I told them I was with a friend. I lied to them. They were suspicious, but that was how it ended.

After that, I met Fedzad Jasarspahic in Kakanj. He had been deputy head of territorial defence before the war. In August, he went to Germany and stayed there a few days. Then he returned. He occupied again some important post. I told him what had happened. He advised me not to talk about it since there were many problems, they slaughtered two people and a man died in the Medical Centre because they took too much blood from him.

I asked him whether I could go to the Medical Centre and he told me not to go there, that he would do something about it, that he would make a report. He asked me whether I was pregnant and I told him that I did not know. I told him that I was bleeding. He told me that most probably I was not pregnant and that everything would be all right. However, when I tried to contact him by phone he did not answer my calls and I was told that he had gone somewhere. I did not venture to go to the Medical Centre since it was rumoured that they did all sorts of things to Serbs there. I did not go out at all.

In the meantime, HOS (Croatian Armed Forces) members came over to my father asking him to let them the apartment and that they would pay the rent. They promised to take me out of Kakanj, since I confided to them what the problem was and that I wanted to solve this tragedy of mine.

Croats took out almost all Serbs from Kakanj. Only one or two hundred of them remained. One evening they said: "Get ready, we are leaving." This was on 4 December. At first, they wanted to go via Busovaca. We could not cross the Moslem-held territory. We went to Kraljeva Sutjeska. We stayed there two or three days. We came to Vares. We arrived there on 15 December, then we went to Nisic between Vares and Ilijas and then we crossed the Moslem-held territory near Nisic from where they returned. I spent the night at a friends' from Kakanj. I came to Pale. There, I saw Professor Serdar. He spoke with me, examined me and told me that I was five month pregnant and that they could not examine me properly

since they had no instruments and personnel. He recommended to me to go to Loznica, Sabac or Belgrade. I did not go that week but waited another seven days since I had no money. I came to Loznica on Monday. The Professor told me to see Dr Krstic so that I was there on Thursday. We agreed by phone after the conversation that I come to Belgrade.

Deposition recorded by
Milanka Balkovic
Senior Stenographer
Federal Assembly

Deposition made by
S. V.

DEPOSITION MADE VOLUNTARILY BY K. M. OF MOSTAR BEFORE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

I was born on 25 October 1955 at Malo Polje, Mostar. I lived at Malo Polje, a village near Mostar. I worked as an accountant in the "Soko" Military Institute in Mostar. In April 1992 (on 11, 12 and 13 April to be exact) regulations on forced labour were introduced. I left for Mostar, Avenija 1, where my fiance, B. S., lived. In an attempt to keep my job, I stayed in Mostar when the war broke out. Already during the war one sensed intolerance and later also hatred towards Serbs. We spent our time in a cellar, listening to curses on account of Serbs. Food was scarce already at that time and could be bought only for Croatian dinars. Neighbours turned their heads, as if they didn't know you. After the withdrawal of our Army, their celebration began. They behaved as "real liberators". Shooting, shouting and cursing everywhere. That's when the real hatred began. They began to take away prominent Serbs and later on the less prominent ones as well. Real celebration, especially of Muslims, began when a Serbian church was hit by a shell. They went wild. The church was subsequently dynamited on several occasions and not even its foundations remained.

Workers of the "Soko" Military Institute were called on the radio to report for work. We went there, but Serbs were told publicly that there was no place for them in the "Soko". My colleague lectured me on genocide against Serbs. She approved of it and said that all Serbs should be rooted out. She was a Muslim married to a Croat. Others were of the same opinion.

On 13 July 1992, HOS members burst into my apartment. There were five of them. "Get ready, we are taking you for a talk," were the first words they spoke. My fiance, his father and I got ready and one of them drove us to the former military hospital. Two of them stayed behind to search the apartment, looking for pictures of St. Sava, as some of our neighbours said. They took our neighbour too, but the fact that his wife was paralysed, saved him.

The HOS members took all our personal documents, money and gold. What they did not find on us and found in the apartment they took away. The apartment was looted and a HOS member, Hamo Bošnjić, prison warden, moved in. Without interrogation, they took me to the prison to a small room, together with other 5-6 women prisoners. We were raped on our first night in prison. A girl was raped twice. Later they stopped it.

Amongst HOS members in Mostar I can name these men: Vinko Martinović, called Štela, who was their commander; his deputy was also Vinko Martinović, who later joined the Croatian Defence Council (HVO). Then Kapetanović, I don't know his first name, and Ivan Zelenika who was a kind of head in the HOS police interrogation department. They did not torture women as much as they tortured men. There were fights too, and all sorts of other things. Women worked all day, occasionally with Ustasha provocations.

I spent eight days in Mostar and my fiance was sent to Dretelj. We heard all sorts of stories about Dretelj. I was very frightened when I left. There were two hangars there; one with men and the other with women. Men were untidy and unshaven, since showers, hair-cutting and shaving were prohibited. Women somehow managed to maintain personal hygiene since there was a shortage of water. Men fetched water in 20-litre canisters. Each time they went for water they were beaten. For this reason women saved water as much as they could. And the worse you looked the better it was for you, since you attracted less attention. The chief commander was general (we called him so) Blaž Kraljević. He had with him a posse of 5-6 Ustashe. He visited inmates every day and was polite with them, but things went from bad to worse with every passing day. Probably on his orders, because he said once that he hated Serbs more than anything in the world.

The torture of men before the eyes of the women was terrible. From dawn to dawn, there was no difference between day and night, just beatings and all other forms of humiliation. We were not human beings. We were Serbs, as they said. Every day there were guards around us carrying guns. Let me name some of them: Hasan Topovan (Brada), Ahmet Matikan (Maks), Suzana from Zagorje, Zerina Šuta, Zvonko Bjeliš (Crvenkapa), the worst of them all, Srećko Erceg, prison commander, Toni Raić, Ilija Raić (the only man who didn't beat anyone), Marina and her sister Gordana. There were many more but I really can't remember them now. While I was at Dretelj, women were raped. To Dretelj as commander came Edip Buljubasic. The three days of his rule were dreadful. One night they raped women in our hanger. The door opened, a flashlight went from bed to bed. You didn't dare to look, but pretended to sleep. Ustashe (this time it was Hasan Topovan and Vinko Primorac) would kick a woman and say: "Get up." They would take her away and bring her back. About 15 minutes, and then again. A flashlight and a "Get up" again. It was repeated and the fear was enormous. Only the following day would we find out who it was. But quietly, so nobody would know. When Ustashe asked whether there were

any problems, you answered no, everything was all right. The next day I saw a man being killed with truncheons and shovels. His name was B.B.. His wife S. was there too. After killing her husband, they asked her whether she wanted to see her husband with blood coming out of each pore of his body. After that, provocations by prison guard Marina that she was going to bring his head to play ball with. Every night, a flashlight roams from prisoner to prisoner....You sweat from fear, covering yourself so as not to be noticed. It cannot be described.

On 17 September 1992 we were taken over by the HVO, who saved us. It was only at Grabovina that we were treated like human beings. And you could say you were a Serb. We stayed there for a month, recuperated and were then taken to Ljubuški. The accommodation was awful, we slept on a concrete floor with a blanket beneath us. We covered ourselves with our clothes. We stayed 5-6 days there, whereafter we were taken to Pakovo Selo for exchange. The exchange failed. From there they took us to "Lora' in Split for the night, then to Ljubuški and on 21 September to Mostar, to the Military High School at Radoč. Of our guards, I only know the name of Šnoda from Grabovina. He was good. In Mostar the food was very bad and the psychological pressure was enormous. For the first time we had a bed to sleep in. The commander in Mostar was Mile Pušić and his deputy was Josip, I don't know his surname. Also, commanders were Ljuke and Branko Jedvaj and Ante Bukovac was a guard, while Jasna Škaljić was responsible for women. In Mostar we were treated like prisoners-of-war. We were saved by the Red Cross on 30 October. Of all the personal belongings that I had as I left the prison were my shoes, trousers and a shirt. Not even an identity card. Everything was destroyed by HOS.

M.K. (Signed)

DEPOSITION MADE BY B.V., PRISONER OF THE DRETELJ CONCENTRATION CAMP

"I was born on 10 October 1937 at Klepci, Municipality of Capljina. I am a worker, Serb, resident of Capljina.

On 10 June 1992, HOS (Croatian Armed Forces) military policemen - Mirsad Repak and Mile Vego came into my apartment, while a third policeman stood guard at the door. As they entered it, they told me: "This is an apartment for a Moslem family." They told me to lie on the floor and fired from the pistol above my head. While I lied on the floor, they looted the apartment and took everything they liked. They took all my personal documents and money saying that I would need them no more. Having searched the apartment, they took me away with them; I was not allowed to take off my dressing gown and put on my street clothes, they said it was not necessary. Together with my neighbour B. B., a Serb, I was taken to the Dretelj camp.

When I arrived at Dretelj, a HOS member Zvonko Bjelis, aka. Crvenkapa (Little Rad Riding Hood), from Opuzen, took the gold I wore on me. Later on, he interrogated me and was one of my torturers. At Dretelj, they put me in a room behind bars, 3 by 2 metres, in which there already were other 3 captured women: O.D., a doctor, Serb, J. M., a teacher, Serb, A. V., a housewife, Serb. Every second day they brought in new prisoners, women and men alike. Men were separated from women; we saw them only when HOS members took them to work.

We were interrogated and physically tortured one by one. They hit me with truncheon on the legs and the body, slapped me, stuck needles under finger nails, burned my hear with candles, extinguished cigarette butts on my chest, cut my underwear with a knife to cut my breasts - these were all threats. I was tortured by Mirsad Repak, Zvonko Bjelis, Ivan Medic from Ljubuski; the names of others I do not know.

They also raped me that first night.

They interrogated me for 7-10 days; they also interrogated other women who were also raped and tortured. I have scars above the chest where they extinguished cigarette butts; bruises from truncheons are no more visible but my arms are still aching.

O. D., a doctor, was tortured much. She was born in Tasovcici and lived and worked in Capljina. She was brought to Dretelj on 5 May 1992. J. M. was brought on 15 May and A. V. 10 days before I was brought.

One month after we came to Dretelj, we were transferred to hangars, women and men in two separate hangars, since they brought in new prisoners every day and there was no more space in the rooms. In the hangars, the floor was concrete and the ceiling was made of beams and plywood. We slept on the floor, there was no electricity and no water, no hygienic facilities. 70 women, aged 30 to 80, were held in this hangar.

During the first 10 days after our arrival in Dretelj, they tortured me and all other women. We were interrogated and tortured separately. I was told that I was tortured because the book the "Plight of Serbs from 1941 to 1945" and the photographs of the transfer of bones from Prebilovci were found in my apartment. Because of this, they beat me till I almost dropped dead.

After 10 days, our torturers established an order of sorts and stopped raping women. But, they continued to torture us physically and mentally.

The other hangar in which men were held was not far away so that we could hear when they beat them. They tortured them during all the time of the captivity. Whole families were held in the camp: fathers, mothers, their daughters and sons.

S. B. was with me, while her husband B. B. was in the other hangar. On 2 August 1992, they beat him with tool holders from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. the following day when he died. In the morning, Edim Buljubasic, a former JNA officer who joined HOS, came to ask S., B. B.'s wife, whether she wanted to see her husband for last time since he had died.

Women witnessed the torture of men. Occasionally, they let us leave the hangar because of the heat so that we could see them beaten with rifle butts, truncheons, stamped upon, forced to graze and eat grass. In early-August, they brought three men to our hangar: D. R., D. R. and M. B. whom they tortured and who had bruises all over their bodies. It took them three days to recover. We, women, helped them to recover as much as we could. HOS members hid them in our hangar from other men prisoners whom they told that they had shot them.

I was in Dretelj until 17 August 1992 when we were transferred to the Grebovina military prison near Mostar. There we were taken over by HVO (Croatian Defence Council) and on 15 September we were all

transferred to the Ljubuski prison (the Ustasha nest) - the biggest stronghold of Paraga's military forces. On 19 September 1992, we were taken to Pakovo Selo to be exchanged, but the exchange fell through. We spent the night between 19 and 20 September at the Lora prison in Split, women inside the building and men standing on their feet within the prison compound. The following night we slept in Ljubuski and from Ljubuski they took us on 21 September to the Radoc prison near Mostar and stayed in that prison until 30 October when we were saved by the International Red Cross which registered us on 8 September 1992 in Grebovina. I was registered under No. (for the purpose of protecting the witness whose family members are still in detention this number is withheld). We were treated in all camps as prisoners of war, not as civilians dragged out from their homes. Through the International Committee of the Red Cross, I arrived in Zelenika on 30 October. Now, I am in the refugee camp in Baosici."

In 1941, B.V. had been in the Modric Ustashi camp near Capljina. All men who had been captured were driven out and shot at Bivolje Brdo near Capljina and thrown into pits. Her brother and father had been among them. In 1990, their bones were transferred to the memorial crypt at Prebilovci, which was dynamited by the Ustashe and turned into a garbage dumpyard. In 1944, all women and children of the village of Klepci had been captured and taken to the Capljina camp. They were to be transported to the Jasenovac concentration camp. "The Germans wanted people to exchange for their dead, so that Ustashe released us in exchange for dead Germans." B.V. had survived two camps and now the third one. Her village of Klepci, inhabited by Serbs, was razed to the ground on three occasions: in 1941, 1944 and 1992.

"While I was in Dretelj in the room behind bars, they also brought in: R. Z. (housewife), G. S. (housewife), M. P. (a Moslem married to a Serb), L. M. and S. Z. (retiree). Four of us - O. D., J. M., A. V. and I - and later on the above mentioned women, were tortured the most.

Note: The statement of B.V. is signed, but at her explicit request her name is not mentioned. She does not want this statement to be made public, since her closest relatives are still detained.

(The statement is made before a representative of the Commissioner of Refugees of the Republic of Serbia)

ASSOCIATION OF SERBS FROM
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
KONJIC HOMELAND CLUB
15 July 1992

HQS (CROATIAN ARMED FORCES) CRIMES AGAINST THE SERBIAN POPULATION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (CAPLJINA) BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN 1992

1. Dr O.D., born in 1958, Capljina, specialist, micro-biology, resident of Capljina.

She was arrested in her apartment by HOS members on 25 April 1992. Before her transfer to the Dretelj camp, HOS members raped her every day, several of them at a time. They forced her to walk naked and threatened her that she would not die before she gave birth to "an Ustasha". They ironed her body with a hot iron. In the Dretelj camp, besides being raped, she was also tortured (they stuck metal nails under her finger nails). She tried to commit suicide. She is the mother of three minor children. The only reason for her arrest and torture was that she was a Serb.

NOTE: O. D. is now living in Visegrad. She talked publicly about rapings on Novi Sad Television, but without going into details. She said that a 65-year old woman died in the Dretelj camp as a consequence of rapings and that a girl killed herself. She was exchanged in August 1992. Her husband says that her mental condition is very bad and that she does not want to talk about the plight she went through any more.

2. J. M., born in 1946, Prebilovci, teacher, resident of Capljina. She was arrested in her apartment and taken to a tobacco warehouse in Capljina. She was tortured and raped every day. She was forced to walk naked and was presented as a "Chetnik whore". She tried to commit suicide several times. Her physical and mental condition is very bad. She was exchanged only recently, since a list of torturers of Serb women was found on her.

NOTE: The Association of Serbs from Bosnia-Herzegovina presented these two cases to the Centre for Human Rights on 15 July within the 1503 secrecy procedure.

Please provide appropriate protection for the names.

SERBIAN COUNCIL
INFORMATION CENTRE

K.S., a Serb, born on 13 May 1941 at Glamoc, made the following

D E P O S I T I O N

In mid-May 1992 began arrests of Serbs in Bosanski Brod. Members of the Croatian military police came to Serb houses and took away Serb men and women for interrogation to the military police from where they never returned.

On 7 July 1992 at 2 p.m., Croatian MPs burst into my house and arrested me and my husband D.S. They took us to the stadium in Bosanski Brod. I was put in the ladies' room at the stadium where I found 12 Serb women, some of whom had already been there a month or two. These were S.Z. (aged about 65), M.S. (about 54) - the Croatian flag was "tattooed" on her foot since her two sons did not fight on the Croatian side - G.N. (1962), H.N., a Moslem from Kobas (about 40), R.S. (about 70) - they did not mistreat her, S.V. (about 30), S.V. (about 30), a lady by the name of Smilja from Bosanska Gradiska, I forgot her surname, who was not mistreated since she was very old. My husband was put in men's room where they had already locked up many arrested Serbs.

At night, Croatian soldiers beat men on the terraces, in the basement and in corridors, wherever they could lay their hand on them; we could hear them screaming. They were beaten by Croatian soldiers who returned from the front. During the day, they had to go to forced labour, they washed Croats' cars, dag trenches, etc.

In mid-July 1992, I do not remember the date, but fierce fighting broke out on the front then, I heard Croats kill 12 Serbs during one night. They killed them in the stadium premises, I think there were 12 of them for I heard 12 gunshots, I heard them packing them in nylon bags, starting a car and taking their bodies somewhere; when they returned, I heard a Croatian soldier say: "We sent them by the Sava River to Milosevic!". I could not sleep that night and sat on the mattress and, since a window of the room I was in faced the balcony in front of which Croatian soldiers gathered, one of them saw me and said: "She saw everything, fuck

her mother". I thought they were going to kill me that night since soldiers burst into the room and one of them said: "This one is finished". However, the head of the prison came over, I do not know his name, and told them to calm down, that "everything has its limits and you will answer me for this". Then he left the room and the soldiers followed him and no one came to see us and give us food for three days after that. I do not know the names of Serbs who were killed then.

We women were raped. Djuro and Dragan Lepen "tattooed" the Croatian national emblem in M.S.'s foot; they also beat her. They incised the flag of the Republic of Croatia with the national emblem in her sole with a knife and cut her underarm. Older women who could not have intercourse with Moslems and Croats were force to perform fellatio. 10 to 15 Croats and Moslems would enter the bathroom where we used to have a shower and raped us there. H.N., a Moslem, was carried over the wall separating women's and men's rooms since they did not have the key; when they brought her back after raping her, she was exhausted and bruised from blows. They put a pistol into her mouth, forced their hands into her vagina, put a truncheon into her mouth, beat her with everything they had. 6 or 7 Croats and Moslems took their turn on each woman. Younger women were taken between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. to Korace, Kricanovo and Sijekovac to be raped. We were raped until we fainted, then they would revive us in the toilet and returned us all covered with blood. We were afraid of the night.

When UNPROFOR representatives came, they bundled us all into automobiles and drove us to the kayak club up the Sava River where we stayed three days until the commission departed. I was driven by Nervin, a Moslem, who had raped me. I asked Indira, who took us over in the military police, where they were taking us and she told me that they were hiding us from UNPROFOR. No one saw us.

I was exchanged on 25 August 1992 in Bosanska Gradiska. On 20 August 1992, we were all driven to the "Beograd-Tulek" Department Store warehouse. There I stayed 5 days and was exchanged on the sixth. Four men and five women were exchanged in my group. Men were brought to the warehouse only at night, while during the day they had to work on the house of a Moslem whose name I do not know.

My husband was not exchanged with me. R.M., married to a Moslem, H.N., a Moslem, who was insane and whom they raped ceaselessly, and 9 men were not exchanged and were driven back to the stadium.

On the night between 31 August and 1 September 1992, according to the story of M. DJ. from Prnjavor who was with my husband at that time and who told that to my sister J.M., my husband was beaten by Croats and Moslems all day. Before that, he threw his shirt all covered with blood over to R.M. who was in the ladies' room. Having beaten him, they brought him to the room all covered with blood, the walls of the room in which MPs beat him were all red from his blood and Serbs had to wash them. He was alive when they put him in bed; then an MP entered the room and hit him on the head with a bottle but my husband gave no sign of life. After half an hour, a doctor was called in and he signed that my husband had killed himself. They put him in a tin coffin and took away.

Milorad Vukovic (aged about 60) was arrested in April 1992 and found dead by the Sava River with his hands tied to the hands of another man. He was beheaded and Croats took a photo of him to his wife Borka Vukovic to Bosanski Brod to see him.

In June 1992, the military police arrested Veljko Repija (aged about 40), a Serb, in his flat and he never returned.

Many women from Bosanski Brod were raped and tortured every night, while many Serb men disappeared without a trace.

I am again in Bosanski Brod, I have found my husband's grave. Some of the women I was with in the camp have been exchanged.

Belgrade, 7 January 1993

Deposition recorded by

Ksenija Lukic

Deposition made by

K.S.

The original deposition is kept in the documentation of the Serbian Council Information Centre, file: Rape - Northern Bosnia.

SERBIAN COUNCIL
INFORMATION CENTRE

G.Ć., a Serb, (1949), of Donje Selo near Konjic, temporary accommodated at Boračko Jezero, made the following

DEPOSITION

The Serb village of Donje Selo, where I lived with my family, was attacked by Croatian and Muslim forces on 20 May 1992. On that occasion, Rajko Ninković (age 45) was killed. The following day, 21 May 1992, another nearby Serb village, Bjelovčina, was also attacked and Donje Selo was shelled again. On 22 May 1992 Croatian and Muslim soldiers arrested all male inhabitants of the village and a large number of women, and took them to the Čelebići detention camp, 7 km away from Donje Selo. On that day, Croatian and Muslim soldiers set fire to 9 Serb houses, my house was burned among the first since we were fairly well-off: a house of app. 600 m2 burned down, a shop, a cafe, a building material warehouse, a gazebo 50 m2 of habitable space, farmhouses.

On 25 May 1992, a pure Serb village of Bradina was attacked and razed to the ground.

I spent these few days at my brother-in-law T.Ć.'s place, because his house was not burned yet. My husband did not surrender with its other inhabitants when Donje Selo fell to the Croatian and Muslim army, but was hiding nearby. On 27 May 1992, Ševko Nikšić, a police commander at Konjic (who had been my husband's boss), Jasmin Guska, head of the police station, Zvonimir Belša "Nono", former commander of the police station, Ibrahim Djuro, a player of the "Sarajevo" football team and some others whom I knew by sight, but I don't know their names, came to my brother-in-law's house. They burned another 4 Serb houses: my summerhouse, the house of my brother-in-law M.Ć, of O.Ć. and T.Ć. That day, 27 May 1992, Sadik Teletović, a Muslim of Konjic, killed my brother-in-law M.Ć. (1937), after he had forced him to show the cave where we would hide when armies would come.

I was arrested then together with my brother-in-law T.Ć. We were taken to the Čelebići detention camp, to former JNA barracks which the army abandoned. At the camp, I was sent to Azem Delić, a Muslim of Konjic, who was deputy camp commander. He started questioning me where my husband was and since I didn't know he started to beat me, threatening

to send me to Grude, to a Croatian detention camp for Serbs. He took me then to another room with 5 beds. We were accompanied by another Muslim from Džajić and by a Ćosić of the village of Ibar near Čelebići. Azem Delić told Ćosić to stand at the door; Džajić was lying in bed, while Azem started to take my clothes off. I thought he was going to beat me with the rod, but he raped me, he was the first to do it, and then they left. I was alone there, but soon an Albanian called "Šok" arrived; he was doing his military service in the JNA there and when the JNA withdrew he decided to stay. He also wanted to rape me. I resisted and cried, so he finally apologized and left. That night they left me alone.

I spent another night there, alone, and they didn't touch me. The third night, however, they took me to the guardhouse, in the reception room. I don't remember what time it was, but I know that many of them came in. They ordered me to undress and raped me. It was dark so I couldn't recognize any of the young men. Three of them raped me, the fourth one didn't. The fourth night they brought young Serb women from Bradina and began to take them around and rape them. While they were there, they didn't touch me.

On 15 June 1992, 13 Serbs from Donje Selo were killed by a shell in the sports hall at Konjic where they had been detained: **Velimir Ćećez** (1952), **Vlado Ćećez** (1950), **Miloš Ćećez** (1950), **Dušan Ćećez** (1952), **Pero Ćećez** (1964), **Mirko Ćećez** (1952 or 1953), **Predrag Kuljanin** (1965 or 1966), **Tihomir Kuljanin** (1959), **Rade Ninković** (I think he was born in 1949, but I am not sure), **Mirko Ninković** (1963), **Stevo Ninković** (app. 1968), **Novica Živak** (1966 or 1967), **Željko Ćećez** (1966) who was killed at Čelebići, but were not buried in the cemetery, but around houses. The Muslims from Prevalj, a Muslim village, shelled the hall. I told him all this, I cried, but Nurko raped me all the same. Then he drove me back to the room and they didn't rape me any more. M.A. was taken away several times by Azem Delić, who kept her for himself and didn't let anybody else touch her.

In July 1992, the Muslims brought 5 women from Žukići to the camp and among them was a girl aged 13, whom Delić had tried to rape, but was prevented by Pavo Mucić, the prison commander, who came from Konjic to save her. The women were beaten severely, even the girl was beaten by truncheons and kicked all over. The following morning, Pavo appeared at the door to ask how they were, and they did not know why they were beaten. He asked the girl: "Were you afraid, dear?" and she answered: "Of course I was". They were released on his intercession, he himself drove them away: he took the girl to Konjic to her relatives, while the women were killed. They were killed by a Muslim, Redžo Balić, of Bale near Bradina: **Sofija Djordjić** (aged app. 65), **Andja Djordjić** (aged 45), **Mara** (an elderly woman) and **Jelenko Djordjić** (aged app. 47). His two sons remained in the camp. I would like to point out that people from Zukići were not armed. I heard that from M.A. and also from the Muslim guard.

During my stay in the camp I watched the Serbs who were tortured by the Muslims. I watched the "Devetka" tunnel at Bradina, I watched the Muslims take the Serbs out, line them against the wall where they had to stand for hours with their hands up, they sat for hours in cold rain, soaking wet, and they were forced to sing and learn the Koran. Those who didn't know the Koran were beaten. I watched them beat and kill **Slavko Šušić** (aged 40), a teacher. Delić was beating him on the back with a stick until he was almost dead and fell on the road, while Delić continued

to kick him. They accused him of having a radio station which he didn't have, but he was guilty of being a prominent Serb. 17 Serbs died from beatings, as far as I know, they were: **Pero Mrkajić** (aged 60) of Bradina, **Simo Jovanović** of Ibar (aged 50), **Čedo Avramović** (born in 1949), a teacher, and a few Serbs of Bjelovčina, a few of Bradina whose names I don't know, but I knew them by sight.

Representatives of the ICRC came to the Čelebići detention camp several times, but they always hid us women from them. I don't know whether they hid men too. We were not allowed to go out or to appear at the window, but I saw it was the ICRC when they were leaving. Once I addressed them, and it was only then that they heard about us and they registered my name and M.A. as well. Shortly after this we were released on 31 August 1992.

After the visits by the ICRC representatives, men were beaten to death because they spoke of their torture by the Muslims. They strewed **Nedeljko Draganić's** legs with gunpowder, a Serb (aged 17), set him on fire and pressed a hot knife against his body, so that it was full of scars, but he was eventually released. They put a red-hot knife on the body of **Spasa Miljević**, a Serb of Konjic, and scorched him; **Dušan**, a Serb taxi driver from Bjelovčani, was also scorched with a knife; some like **Branko Gotovac** (1937), of Vinište, for example, got hernia of hard labour. I saw all this because I was near the camp. Srdja, a Serb of Bradina, had his arm broken; Sava Djordjić had his left ear cut off; Nedjo Kuljanin had his little finger cut off, etc. I watched Serbs walking on crutches, with bandaged arms and heads, exhausted and massacred. Whenever a car came over to pick up a killed Serb, Muslims would say that he died of diabetes, from hunger-strike, of heart attack. They said Žarko Mrkajić was strangled by Slavko Šušić, though I saw that Azem Delić killed him.

My husband was hiding at Donje Selo, but during my stay in the Muslim camp, I knew nothing about him. When I returned to the village on 31 August 1992, my brother-in-law told me that my son had left for the Serb territory on 30 August 1992. I was surprised to see my brother-in-law there, but he told me that my husband had left a week before and that our son went along with him. My brother-in-law's children were hiding around the house and on 29 September 1992 they set for the Serb territory along the

Neretva river, towards the village of Bijela. On 22/23 August 1992, my husband was killed as he stepped on a land mine. Our son managed to reach the Serb territory. My brother-in-law's children were killed on 2/3 September 1992. We heard of their death only on 5 September 1992. A Muslim, Jasna Džumur, president of the State Commission for Prisoners at Konjic came to me accompanied by four Muslim soldiers, asking me to join them and identify the corpses. I didn't want to, but they forced me. My brother-in-law's children R.Ć.(1964) and R.Ć. (1965) were recognizable; but my husband's corpse was disfigured. It was black, but they had taken out everything they could from the head: the eyes, the ears, the brains, everything. I hardly recognized him. On Monday, 7 September 1992, they allowed us to bury the brother-in-law's children. My husband's corpse was given to me only on 18 September 1992, thanks to a Croat, Zdenko Šagolj "Pisak", who said they had to release the body for the sake of humanity. We buried him near the brother-in-law's house.

Somehow, I managed to flee the Muslim territory, so the children and I are now in the Serb-held territory. We lost everything, but we have to live on. My only hope are the children.

Belgrade, 7 January 1993

DEPOSITION TAKEN BY:
Ksenija Lukić (Sgd.)

DEPOSITION MADE BY:
G.Ć. (Sgd.)

The original deposition is kept in the files of the Serb Council Information Centre: Rape - Herzegovina.

SERBIAN COUNCIL
INFORMATION CENTRE

O.G., born in Vukovar on 20 October 1940, from Vukovar, made, on 20 February 1992 in Belgrade the following

D E P O S I T I O N

I was seriously wounded by a grenade in my house in Vukovar on 23 October 1991 and was transferred to the Vukovar Hospital. My husband V.G. was also in the Hospital with me. I was hospitalized for about eight days. While I was there, my bed was in the corridor of the Internal Medicine Ward. Since both I and my husband had been employed in the Hospital for a long time, we knew all its staff. The conduct of the medical staff towards me as a patient with serious wounds was extremely bad. Surgeons hardly bothered to bandage my wounds. I found T.J. and his wife V. in the Hospital. They were our neighbours and we knew them well. T. was seriously wounded; his right leg was amputated below his knee. V. confided in me that some wounded Serbs from the Hospital who were to be discharged disappeared overnight. She mentioned no names, but since her husband T. was in the Hospital basement she went to see him and knew it. Members of the Croatian National Guard armed with rifles kept coming to the Hospital. Whenever they came, they saluted Dr Vesna Bosanac and Dr Juro Njavro with two raised fingers. On 30 October 1991 in the evening, the head nurse Binazija Kolesar, aka "Biba", told me that I had to leave the Hospital and that I would be transferred to the "Komerc" shelter at the "Borovo" combine. I was a patient with serious wounds on the head, the back and the spine - and was surprised that they forced me to go there. I begged them to keep me in the Hospital until the following day. Dr Jagetic came and I asked to be transferred to the basement where my husband was, but he told me that it was not possible. He went to see Dr Vesna Bosanac, came back and told me that both I and my husband V. were to be transferred to the "Komerc" shelter in the morning.

Next morning, about seven of us were transferred to the "Komerc" shelter: I, my husband V., T.J. and his wife V., V.V. and two women, most of them Serbs.

When we came to "Komerc", its commander was a man called "Brko", a dark man, who was there only two days and then disappeared. He

took our names. He was with a man called "Gagi" who was about 30 years of age, brown-skinned, his hair was cut short, he wore an earring in one ear and had three lines shaved along both sides of the head above the ears. He had a gun and wore a camouflage uniform. In that shelter, there were many ZNG (Croatian National Guard) members, mostly wounded, two or three women in uniforms and about 30 Serb men and women, most of them wounded. We had to keep mum. We were not allowed to say a word. "Gagi" yelled at us, while he treated others nicely.

Martin Sablic was also in the shelter; he came two days after our transfer. "Gagi" convened a meeting and told us that there would be some changes and that from that moment on Martin Sablic would be the commander in charge of civilians and he, "Gagi", would be the commander of the ZNG.

Bartul Domazet was also at the "Komerc"; he had come from the Hospital. He was wounded. Once, he yelled at T.J. and said that Cetnik nests were being created there and that Cetniks were taking the places of the combatants who should be treated there instead. T. kept silent, without a word.

Occasionally Lalosav Bosanac, Dr Vesna Bosanac's husband, came to the shelter. He was the commander of the entire "Borovo" combine and all were subordinated to him, including Martin Sablic. Beside them, Arvaj Karcika made himself very busy, too, in the shelter: he ran errands for Martin and "Gagi", always driving things and people to and fro.

On 4 November 1991, Sinisa Vlaisavljevic, a youth from Preradoviceva ulica in Vukovar, whose father was a butcher, was taken out from the "Komerc" shelter. Sinisa had been wounded, had been in the Hospital and was a Serb. "Gagi" came for him and they drove him away somewhere; he never returned and I do not know what happened to him.

On 5 November 1991, "Gagi" came with two ZNG MPs and asked for T.; they asked him where his son was. He told them that his son was in Osijek, that he had a job there. "Gagi" told him that he would show him a film so that he would see where his son was, adding that he was taking the place of the guards. After that, "Gagi" and the two guards left. T. said he had a premonition, that something was going to happen that night, that he was going to go that night, that he would not survive. We all cried since we all slept in the same room.

On 5 November 1991, "Gagi" came over and asked where my husband V. was. When he found him he told him to come with him; V. left with him and another man was immediately brought to his bed. I begged him to tell me where my husband was and he told me he did not know. Since I cried and asked for my husband, Dr Kuzmanovic whispered to me that he was in the Vukovar prison together with V.V. and another man who was taken away from the shelter on that day, more precisely night; so, all three of them were taken away from the shelter.

We were not allowed to talk to each other, we were under constant surveillance; the Croats whom we knew well avoided us, gave us a wide berth.

On 6 November 1991, T.J. was taken away from the "Komerc" shelter; "Gagi" came for him and took him away. T.J. went on crutches. All the time while men were taken away, Martin Sablic was in the shelter and knew what was going on. However, he did not appear when these men were taken away, only "Gagi" came. T.J. never returned and we did not know what happened to him. It was said for "Gagi" that he was from Sinj and that he lived somewhere in Jarvina or at a nearby village.

After T.J. was taken away, I and V. were alone. On 7 November 1991 in the morning, Ana Lukic came to the "Komerc" shelter. She was a colleague of mine and a family friend. She and her husband Bogdan worked in the Hospital. She told me that she came during the night around 2 a.m., that she had had to flee from the basement where she had hid for a month since she had been raped on that night by a guardsman who kept on coming to the basement on several previous nights threatening to kill her. She told me that she had begged him not to do that saying that she could be his mother and that he replied that he could not care less and had raped her. So, she ran away from the basement and came to the "Komerc" shelter. There, she was interrogated by a Bozo, from the military police, a blondine (she was in charge of all lists) and Arvaj Karcika. She confided to them that she had been raped since they thought she was a spy. They told her that she had to report to Martin Sablic and she did so in the morning. She knew Sablic well since they were neighbours. She was afraid of Martin very much and kept on telling me that he would kill her.

On 7 November 1991 in the evening, we were transferred from the "Komerc" to the "Nova Obucara" shelter. Martin Sablic also came to the

new shelter as its commander. Bartul Domazet also came over and the two of them were in charge and decided everything in the shelter. They were joined by a guardsman called "Siptar" who was always armed: he had a knife, an axe, bombs, a rifle. He wore a black pointed hat and a black jacket. He kept on yelling around the shelter "a bullet in the head, a bullet in the head". Martin constantly toured the shelter, just watching and without saying a word. I, V. and Ana were in a compartment, close to each other, and were not allowed to go anywhere. The guard in the shelter was Franjo Bauer and his wife Violeta who made some lists and distributed food. Stipo Kovacevic from Bogdanovci, who tortured us, was also there. Sablic and Bartol had guns. On 16 or 17 November 1991 between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., Martin Sablic, Bartol Domazet, "Siptar", Stipo Kovacevic and Franjo Bauer and two ZNG MPs came to our compartment. Sablic said that our compartment would be searched, they were looking for arms or knives. He turned to the three of us, pointed at each one of us and ordered a thorough search.

We were searched by Franjo Bauer, Domazet, "Siptar", Kovacevic and two MPs. They searched us three times and each time Martin ordered them to search us again. When they found nothing, Martin said: "Now, I will search". Martin searched Ana himself. He searched her thoroughly, sat and watched her cynically. Ana was afraid. My and V.'s things were not searched so thoroughly. As he searched Ana, Martin found four soldier's books (belonging to her husband and sons), two passports and two or three savings books. When he found all this, he asked her where her husband and sons were; he told her that her husband was shooting at them. Ana told him that they were all in Subotica. He saw from the savings book that the money had been withdrawn about a month before. Since the book was in her husband's name, he accused her of hiding him, that the book was an evidence. She told him that she herself had withdrawn the money and he asked her where her authorization was; she told him she did not have one since she knew a teller in the bank who gave her the money. He did not believe her. He told her that they suspected that she wanted to run away. Bauer added that she should be ashamed of keeping the soldier's books, that he himself was ashamed that he had been a soldier and he had burned his own soldier's book. All the time during the search, "Siptar" stood next to

Martin and watched. Bartul would come and go, watching the search. Then, Sablic looked at "Siptar" asking him: "Did you take away the goods?" "Siptar" answered: "Yes, everything is OK". Sablic watched Ana cynically and said: "There will be more".

I was interrogated by Sablic who asked me where my husband was, whether I was from a prominent Vukovar family, he told me he knew where my husband worked.

When the guardsman found her husband's passport, her passport and a photo of her son in military uniform on V. they said: "Good God, this is T.J.'s wife!" Martin inspected them. He gave soldier's books and passports to MPs telling them that they belonged to them. He turned to V. and Ana and told them: "You and you, pack your things", pointing his finger at Ana and V. He ordered me to go to bed. I was all bandaged, my head was all bandaged, too. Then, "Siptar" took Ana and V. towards the exit in the corridor. After some time, I asked a woman to go and see where they were. She told me they were sitting at the shelter door. After one hour and a half, "Siptar" brought back Ana and V. to our compartment, but he kept a close eye on them all along. Then firemen came to the entrance door to fill the water reservoir; when they finished their work, "Siptar" signalled with his head to Ana and V. to get up and come with him. They left and never returned. I saw Ana and V. never again. They took their personal belongings with them.

Immediately before the surrender, a young blonde went from compartment to compartment for two successive evenings and read lists of people. She read out the names of people and said that if some of the roll-called did not get out into the corridor they would be immediately killed including those who knew them and did not report them. One evening, they read out a list of 15 people and took them away from the shelter. Among others, there were the names of Uros Neducic of Lusac, an Ostojic; I concluded they were all Serbs by their names and surnames. The following evening, they read out six or seven names and took the people away from the shelter. Part of a group was taken to the dining room, it appeared to be a large group, where they were interrogated. I did not venture to go out, no one was allowed to leave the compartments, so I did not see who they were. I knew their names then, but I cannot remember them now. One evening

before the surrender, Martin Sablic and Bartul came and demanded that all should give their HDZ insignia, membership cards and all other emblems. They pulled down the Croatian flag at the entrance and filled a bag with insignia and documents. They took it all with them. After 10 minutes, all who wore uniforms changed into civilian clothes, mostly into blue workers' overalls.

Among the people I saw in the shelter was also Jure Marusic whom I knew as a blood donor. He had always been messing around the shelter yelling, always in touch with Sablic, in and out from his compartment where they met. An armed young plump woman with guardsmen used also to come to Sablic's compartment; they were looking for people to take away to the front. I do not know whom they led away, I was not allowed to leave my compartment, but they always did that hurriedly and in a great panic. Once someone fired a shot in the corridor as they picked up the people. I don't know who fired.

O.G. (Signed)

Note: Ana Lukic was killed (confirmed by her husband).

Documentation in the Serbian Council Information Centre, file: Vukovar.